## CLAIMS

1. An ear type clinical thermometer comprising:

a main body to be held by hand at a time when an eardrum temperature is to be measured; and

a probe fixed to the main body while protruding from the main body and to be inserted into an external auditory canal of a person whose eardrum temperature is to be measured at the time when the measurement is to be taken, characterized in that

the main body has a side at which the probe protrudes from the main body and a side opposite to this side, and the side opposite to the side at which the probe protrudes from the main body is constructed of a curved surface having a substantially constant curvature along a direction perpendicular to a reference plane containing a center axis of the probe.

2. An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 1, characterized in that the side opposite to the side at which the probe protrudes from the main body may be constructed as a curved surface which is shaped substantially as an arc in an end face when the main body is cut at a plane which is perpendicular to the reference plane.

3. An ear type clinical thermometer comprising:

a main body to be held by hand at a time when an eardrum

temperature is to be measured; and

a probe fixed to the main body while protruding from the main body and to be inserted into an external auditory canal of a person whose eardrum temperature is to be measured at the time when the measurement is to be taken, characterized in that:

the main body has an indicator for allowing a user to recognize a plurality of main-body-holding methods differing according to directions in which the probe is to be inserted into the external auditory canal of the person whose temperature is to be measured.

4. An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 3, further comprising a switch for starting the measuring of the eardrum temperature, which is used commonly across all of the plurality of main-body-holding methods, characterized in that the indicator is provided to a surface of the switch.

5. An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the indicator is arranged on a reference plane which contains a center axis of the probe.

6. An ear type clinical thermometer according to any one of claims 3 to 5, further characterized in that the indicators are arranged on both sides of the reference plane containing the center axis of the probe.

7. An ear type clinical thermometer according to any one of claims 3 to 6, characterized in that: the main body has a side at which the probe protrudes from the main body and a side opposite to this side; and the side opposite to the side at which the probe protrudes from the main body is constructed of a curved surface having a substantially constant curvature along a direction perpendicular to the reference plane.

8. An ear type clinical thermometer according to any one of claims 3 to 7, characterized in that the indicator allows the user to recognize, as the plurality of main-body-holding methods, a holding method 1 used in a case when the direction in which the probe is to be inserted is a direction going from an opening of the external auditory canal to a back side of the person whose temperature is to be measured, and a holding method 2 used in a case when the direction in which the probe is to be inserted is a direction going from the opening of the external auditory canal to a front side of the person whose temperature is to be measured.

9. An ear type clinical thermometer according to any one of claims 3 to 8, characterized in that the indicator allows the user to recognize, with respect to the plurality of main-body-holding methods, locations on the main body at which a portion of the hand

which is to be a reference for the respective holding methods is to be positioned.

10. An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 9, characterized in that the portion of the hand which is to become the reference for the main-body-holding methods is an index finger.

11. An ear type clinical thermometer according to any one of claims 3 to 10, characterized in that the indicator is adhered.

12. An ear type clinical thermometer according to any one of claims 3 to 10, characterized in that the indicator is printed.

13. An ear type clinical thermometer according to any one of claims 3 to 10, characterized in that the indicator is constructed as a convex portion.

14. An ear type clinical thermometer according to any one of claims 2 to 9, characterized in that the indicator is constructed as a concave portion.

15. An ear type clinical thermometer, characterized by comprising: a main body to be held by hand at a time when an eardrum temperature is to be measured; a probe fixed to the main body while protruding

from the main body and to be inserted into an external auditory canal of a person whose eardrum temperature is to be measured at the time when the measurement is to be taken; and a plurality of start-measuring switches provided in accordance with a plurality main-body-holding methods differing according to directions in which the probe is to be inserted into the external auditory canal of the person whose temperature is to be measured.

16. An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 15, characterized in that at least one of the plurality of switches is arranged on a reference plane containing a center axis of the probe.

17. An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 15, characterized in that the plurality of switches are arranged to both sides of a reference plane containing a center axis of the probe.

18. An ear type clinical thermometer according to any one of claims 15 to 17, characterized in that the main body has a side at which the probe protrudes from the main body and a side opposite to this side, and the side opposite to the side at which the probe protrudes from the main body is constructed of a curved surface having a substantially constant curvature along a direction perpendicular

to the reference plane containing the center axis of the probe.

19. An ear type clinical thermometer, characterized by comprising: a main body to be held by hand at a time when an eardrum temperature is to be measured; a probe fixed to the main body while protruding from the main body and to be inserted into an external auditory canal of a person whose eardrum temperature is to be measured at the time when the measurement is to be taken; and a start-measuring switch which is used in common across a plurality of main-body-holding methods differing according to directions in which the probe is to be inserted into the external auditory canal of the person whose temperature is to be measured, and having a shape which can allow a user to recognize the plurality of main-body-holding methods.

20. An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 19, characterized in that the start-measuring switch is arranged in a substantially symmetrical fashion with respect to a reference plane which contains a center axis of the probe.

21. An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 19 or 20, characterized in that: the main body has a side at which the probe protrudes from the main body and a side opposite to this side; and the side opposite to the side at which the probe protrudes from the main body is constructed of a curved surface having a substantially

constant curvature along a direction perpendicular to the reference plane containing the center axis of the probe.

22. An ear type clinical thermometer comprising: a main body to be held by hand at a time when an eardrum temperature is to be measured; and a probe fixed to the main body while protruding from the main body and to be inserted into an external auditory canal of a person whose eardrum temperature is to be measured at the time when the measurement is to be taken, characterized in that the main body comprises an indicator surface for allowing a user to recognize a plurality of main-body-holding methods differing according to directions in which the probe is to be inserted into the external auditory canal of the person whose temperature is to be measured.

23. An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 22, characterized in that the indicator surface is comprised of a plurality of surfaces and the plurality of surfaces are arranged substantially symmetrically with respect to a reference plane containing a center axis of the probe.

24. An ear type clinical thermometer according to claim 22 or 23, characterized in that the indicator surface is comprised of a plurality of substantially flat surfaces and the substantially flat surfaces are aligned along a direction that is perpendicular to

the reference plane being joined in such a way that neighboring substantially flat surfaces form an interior angle of 10° to 170°.

add B2)